GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:284
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
RICE PRODUCTION
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the output of rice in the country is expected to be lower than the initial estimates;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the per acre yield of rice in the country is less than the world`s average;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the yield of rice in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 284 DUE FOR REPLY ON 30-11-2010

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As per 1st advance estimates released on 23-09-2010, the production of kharif rice during 2010-11 is estimated at 80.41 million tonnes as compared to the production target of 87.00 million tonnes for the year. The shortfall in production of rice has been due to drought in the major rice producing areas of the country such as East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal during the monsoon season, 2010.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Although, India is the second largest producer of rice in the world after China, as per the latest available reports of Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2009, the yield of rice in India is 2.98 tonnes/hectare as compared to the world average of 4.20 tonnes/hectare. However, the yield of rice in certain States like Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh, having intensive cultivation through increased cropping intensity, adoption of improved varieties and agronomic practices with better irrigation facilities are comparable to the world average. Enhanced productivity of rice in the countries like China could be attributed to maximum area coverage under irrigation, adoption of hybrid rice in 95% of the areas, use of improved varieties, adoption of mechanized farm practices and judicious use of fertilizers/nutrients. Further, Japonica rice grown in Japan, Korea and parts of China has higher yield potential as compared to Indica rice adapted to tropical climate and exclusively cultivated in India.

(e): To bridge the yield gaps and enhance production of rice in the country, Government of India has been implementing several Crop Development Schemes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM) - Rice, Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Incentives on various interventions like seeds, micronutrients and soil ameliorants, machinery etc. are extended to the farmers to bridge the yield gap of rice along with other major crops like wheat and pulses to contribute to the national food basket. Further, enhancing and stabilizing rice productivity in all eco systems in the country is the major thrust area of agricultural research. It includes development of improved rice hybrids, improvement of mega rice varieties through incorporation of stress resistance, increasing area coverage under hybrids and improving production through water conservation technologies like aerobic rice, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), Alternate wetting & drying, integrated pest and nutrient management, etc.